

decline until 1981 is strikingly different from the annual fluctuations in numbers of *A. 2-punctata*.

Table 3 shows the monthly occurrence of *C. 7-punctata* from 1975 onwards. One was recorded in April 1975, none in May-July, and then suddenly 95 in August, mainly in the first two weeks, with a further 25 in September and October. In August *C. 7-punctata* was extremely common in the garden, but no larvae or pupae had been found earlier in the season, strongly suggesting a movement into the garden from surrounding fields where, I think, the aphid food supply had failed. Substantial numbers remained all winter and were active whenever the weather was mild. Overwintered individuals were trapped in April-June 1976, and enormous numbers were found all over the garden mating and laying eggs. Subsequently larvae and pupae were found on herbaceous plants, providing the first positive breeding records. In July and August, at the height of the drought, adults became extremely abundant everywhere. In these two months *C. 7-punctata* was nearly twice as abundant in the trap as *A. 2-punctata*. Many overwintered and 61 were trapped in April-June 1977; thereafter numbers fell, despite successful breeding, and the species was less common in April-June 1978, and rare in July-October of that year. By the spring of 1979 there were few about and none was trapped until September when there was a considerable movement into the garden. This was followed by many overwintering, their reappearance in April-June 1980, but few records subsequently.

The events of early August 1975 thus started a chain reaction whose effect did not really disappear until the summer of 1980. This ladybird has bred in the garden every year since 1976 until 1981 when it disappeared as a breeding species.

(To be continued)

CARPOPHILUS MARGINELLUS MOTSCH. (COL., NITIDULINAE)  
OUT-OF-DOORS IN SUFFOLK. — On 1 June, 1978, I found a single specimen of *Carpophilus marginellus* resting on low saltmarsh vegetation at Sutton, near Woodbridge, Suffolk (TM 2748). Mr. A. A. Allen in summarising the British out-of-doors records of this beetle (1958, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 94: 70) suggested that its occurrence in the wild was probably limited to the vicinity of stacks, dumps or other man-made habitats where extra heat from fermentation was available — cf. also subsequent records from Berks. (Woodroffe, G., 1969, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 105: 192) and Wilts. (Nash, D., 1976, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 111 (1975): 50). Although the Suffolk specimen may have been a straggler from such a habitat, there is a strong possibility that the beetle could have bred in the decaying, undisturbed tidal refuse which littered the area, and which would also have been able to provide the extra heat for out-of-doors development. Despite much sieving of the latter, no further examples were discovered.

I thank Mr. A. A. Allen for confirming my determination of the specimen. — D. R. NASH, 266, Colchester Road, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2BU.